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16 January 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John H. Crimmins
Coordinator of Cuban Affairs

SUBJECT: Arms Shipment for Ray

The following message has been received [24] through our
channels] from Santo Domingo:

"I conveyed points enumerated in Section B of
Reftel to Reid and Caceres Jan 14. Reid indicated
some of what I told him confirmed information already
communicated to him by Ray. Reid fully understood
that if he went ahead with transaction, it would be
at his own risk and U.S. position, if origin became
public, would have be that this normal export to
GODR.

"Reid did not repeat not ask us to deny export
license, evidently preferring to investigate matter
further before making his decision. His primary
concern is whether onward shipment to Venezuela has
approval Venezuelan Govt. He said in absence diplo-
matic relations this difficult ascertain. He lacked
sufficient confidence in Venezuelan Consul General
here or in his own in Venezuela to use them as
channels. After I discouraged him from expecting
us to ascertain attitude Venezuelan Government for
him, he indicated he would probably ask his Ambassador
in Washington to sound out his Venezuelan colleague
there.

"Reid's concern about assuring onward shipment
stems largely from his great respect for lethal
qualities of weapons involved and fear they might
find way into wrong hands here. He said he would
not allow them to be uncrated here or broken down
into packs of sixty each which he indicated was form
in which they would be shipped eventually to Cuba.

1/89

"For foregoing reasons, Reid indicated he is adamantly opposed to having weapons sent to Cuba directly from D.R. He also repeated an earlier statement that he was not permitting exiles to move directly from D.R. against Cuba. Yet because of sympathy for anti-Castro cause, and on humanitarian grounds as well, he would like to be helpful in facilitating arms transshipment via Venezuela."

John L. Hart